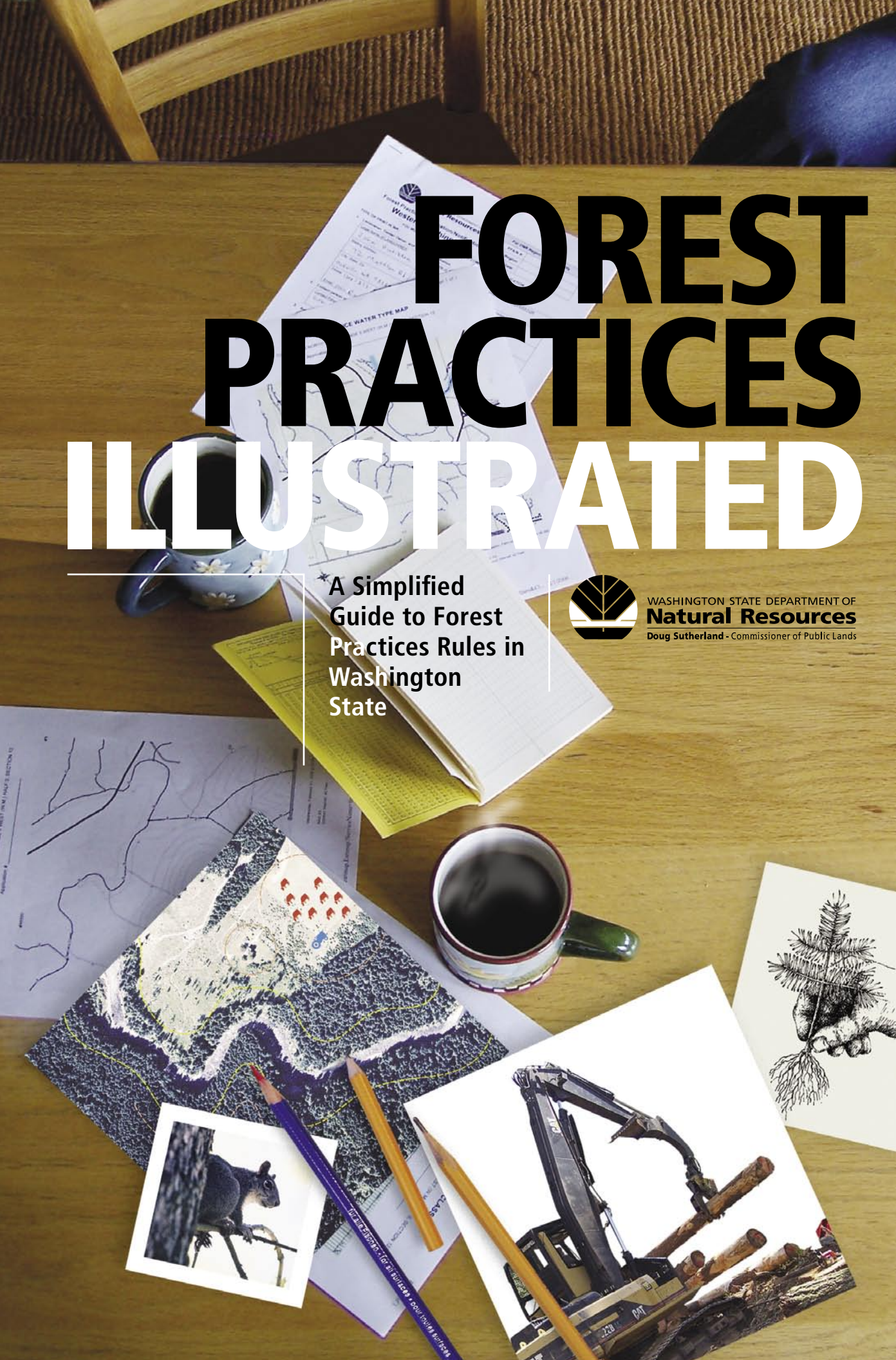


FOREST PRACTICES ILLUSTRATED

A Simplified
Guide to Forest
Practices Rules in
Washington
State



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands





**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE
NEAREST DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REGION
IN WHICH YOUR PROPERTY IS LOCATED**

Olympia Headquarters

Forest Practices Division
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
(360) 902-1400

Northeast Region

225 S. Silke Road
PO Box 190
Colville, WA 99114-0190
(509) 684-7474

Northwest Region

919 N. Township Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284-9395
(360) 856-3500

Olympic Region

411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA 98331-9797
(360) 374-6131

South Puget Sound Region

950 Farman Avenue North
Enumclaw, WA 98022-9282
(360) 825-1631

Pacific Cascade Region

601 Bond Road
PO Box 280
Castle Rock, WA 98611-0280
(360) 577-2025

Southeast Region

713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926-9301
(509) 925-8510



Visit Our Website
www.dnr.wa.gov



Call Us
360-902-1400



Request a Disk
Contact your local
region office



Come In
See Addresses
at Left



FOREST PRACTICES ILLUSTRATED

**A Simplified
Guide to Forest
Practices Rules in
Washington
State**



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

How to Use This Book

These first few pages contain answers to the most commonly asked questions about the Forest Practices Rules and the application filing, review, and approval process.

The rest of the book is divided into four chapters:

- Introduction
- Cultural Resources
- Forest Roads
- Timber Harvest

Each chapter has a helpful “Suggestions for Success” section which corresponds to the information, illustrations and photographs in the text.

At the end of the book you’ll find a glossary of terms commonly used in forestry and forest practices. You’ll also find a reference list of sources for additional information and assistance. We hope you will find this book useful in successfully planning and carrying out your forestry operations. We welcome your suggestions for improving this book. Comments about this publication should be addressed to:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Forest Practices Division
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
(360) 902-1400

Additional copies of this publication are available through DNR region offices, and on the Department of Natural Resources internet website on the Forest Practices program webpage: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/> and on CD, available upon request at region offices.

SYMBOLS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE BOOK



Forest Practices
Application/
Notification



Forest Practices
Application
Activity Map



Forest Practices
Board Manual



Forest Practices
Rules



Avoid/Do Not
Symbol

Disclaimer: The State of Washington’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) makes no warranty that the thoughts and ideas expressed here are adequate for the reader’s purposes in general or for the reader’s compliance with local, state or federal laws concerning forest practices. The thoughts and ideas in this publication are intended as forest practices assistance. This book is not meant to interpret the Act or rules or make enforceable those suggestions which exceed legal requirements. Further, DNR makes no express or implied warranty concerning the thoughts and ideas expressed herein. Any use of trade, product or business name is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the State of Washington or DNR.

To reproduce or copy any portion of this publication please notify the Department of Natural Resources, Forest Practices Division. Please acknowledge this publication as a source in your materials.

© 2007 Washington State
Department of Natural Resources
Forest Practices Division



Contents

7	LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS
9	INTRODUCTION
10	FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
16	WATERSHEDS AND FOREST PRACTICES
18	FOREST PRACTICES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

20

Cultural Resources

Protecting cultural resources helps preserve human traditions, culture, and history. This chapter explains what they are, offers general guidance to state laws, and answers common questions.

28

Forest Roads

Proper planning is required to protect resources when constructing and maintaining new and existing roads. This chapter presents information regarding new and existing roads, landings, road maintenance, and stream crossings.

50

Timber Harvest

Thoughtful planning is required to protect resources when harvesting timber. This chapter touches on riparian and wetland management, threatened and endangered species, reforestation, forest chemicals, and harvest systems.

130	RESOURCES
139	ACRONYMS
140	GLOSSARY
151	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
 Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) produced this publication. The Commissioner of Public Lands, a statewide elected official who chairs the state Forest Practices Board and the state Board of Natural Resources, administers DNR.

The Department:

- ▶ Administers the state Forest Practices Rules and provides forest fire protection, prevention and regulation on more than 12.7 million acres of non-federal, public, and private lands.
- ▶ Assists non-industrial private forest owners through the Forest Stewardship Program.
- ▶ Provides urban forestry assistance to municipalities through the Community Forestry Program.
- ▶ Manages more than 5 million acres of forest, range, agricultural and aquatic (submerged) lands to produce income to support state services and to provide many more public benefits, such as recreation.
- ▶ Manages nearly 3 million acres of state trust lands to help support public schools, universities and colleges,

Capitol buildings, prisons, state institutions, local services in many counties, and the state general fund.

- ▶ Provides many other public benefits, such as outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, clean air and water.
- ▶ Protects 12.7 million private and non-federal public forested acres from wildfire with more than 1,200 firefighters and support staff, including 500 permanent DNR employees who have other duties in the agency.
- ▶ Manages 83,200 acres of conservation lands and 27,700 acres of Natural Area Preserves. Natural Resources Conservation Areas are managed as opportunities for outdoor environmental education and appropriate low-impact use, while protecting outstanding scenic and ecological values. Natural Area Preserves are used for scientific and educational purposes and protect high quality native ecosystems and rare plant and animal species representing Washington's natural heritage.
- ▶ Provides geologic education, regulation and research that reduces hazards to the public from natural disasters, such as earthquakes and landslides.



A Letter from the Commissioner of Public Lands

Dear Reader:
As we learn more about the complex ecological relationships that shape forests, we gain a better understanding of what we need to do to protect and sustain these natural resources. As our knowledge and understanding improves, the laws and rules that govern natural resource protection are adjusted.

Forest Practices Illustrated was first produced in 1997 in response to requests for an easy-to-use guide with photos and illustrations. It was designed to help Washington's small forest landowners, loggers and natural resource professionals understand the rules governing forest practices.

Since then, Forest Practices Rules have been revised to address the federal listing of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout as threatened and endangered species. The revisions stem from the 2000 Forests and Fish Report. For nearly two years, the forestry industry, small landowners, Tribal governments, state and federal agencies, and counties worked diligently to reach agreement on scientifically-based changes to the rules. The goal is to protect water quality and aquatic resources to the greatest extent possible, while maintaining economically viable commercial forestry.

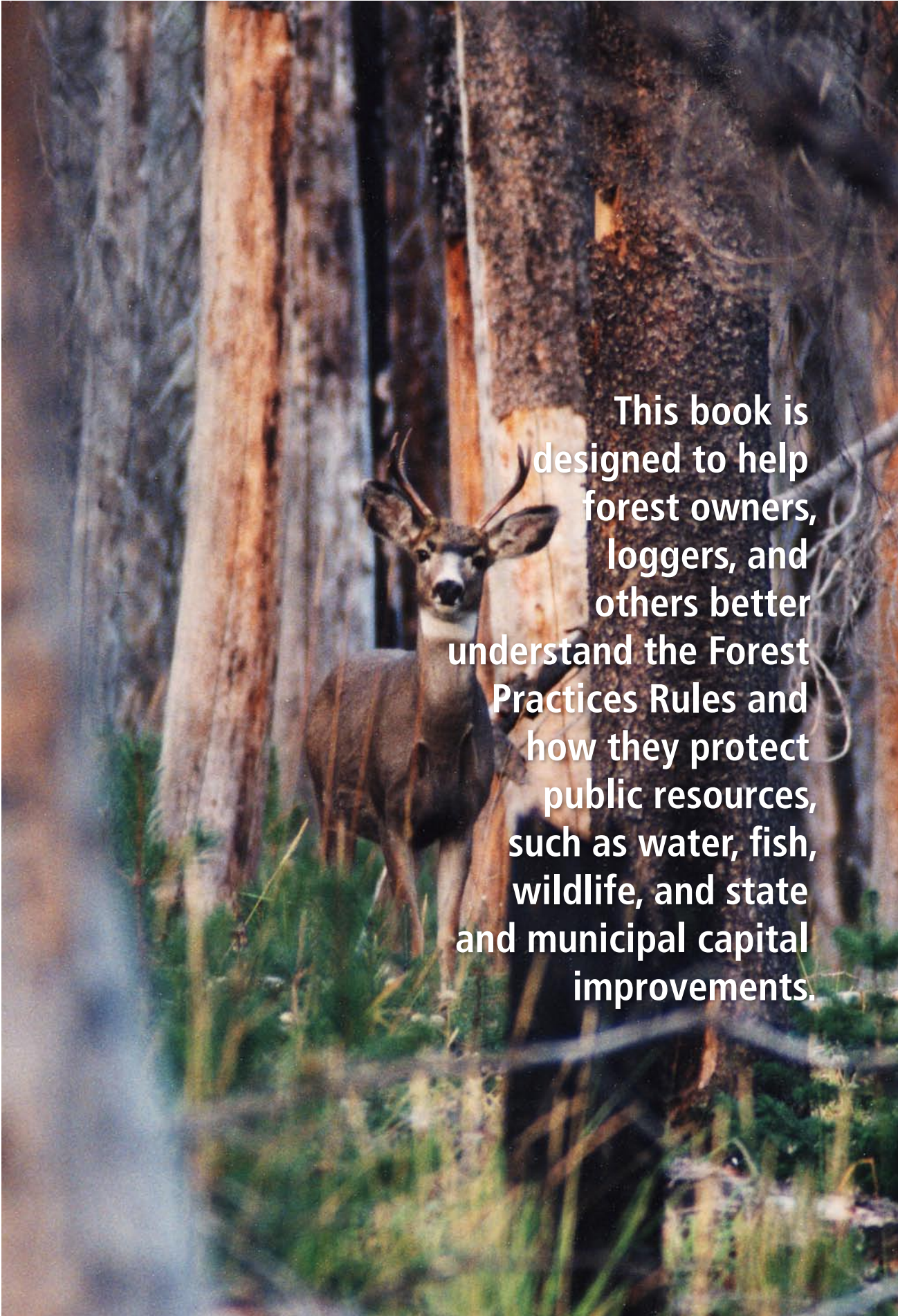
This updated edition of Forest Practices Illustrated reflects the changes in state Forest Practices Rules. It does not replace the forest practices rule book, but is intended to be an educational and informative supplement. We hope you find this publication helpful, easy to understand and easy to use.

Sincerely,



DOUG SUTHERLAND
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS






This book is designed to help forest owners, loggers, and others better understand the Forest Practices Rules and how they protect public resources, such as water, fish, wildlife, and state and municipal capital improvements.



Introduction



Washington's forests provide abundant resource benefits: timber and wood products, fish and wildlife habitat, clean air and water, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and natural beauty. Since 1974, the state has regulated forestry activities on non-federal public and private lands through the Forest Practices Act. This law and its corresponding rules are designed to protect Washington's public resources and maintain a viable forest products industry.

This book is designed to help forest owners, loggers, and others better understand the Forest Practices Rules and how they protect public resources, such as water, fish, wildlife, and state and municipal capital improvements. In it, you'll find commonly encountered rules, with photographs and illustrations that show what these operations look like. Rules that apply only to special or limited circumstances are not included. In addition to information about the rules, this book contains supplemental information to help you plan and conduct your forestry operations to be more successful.

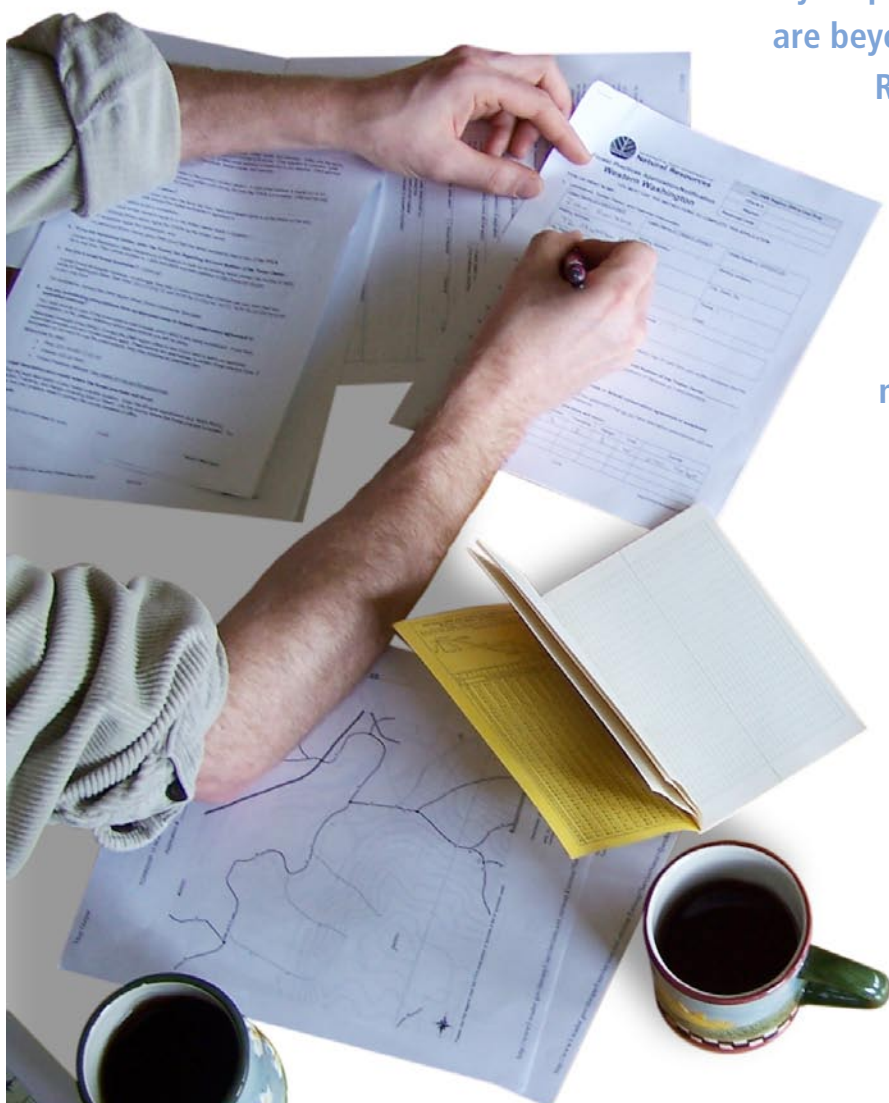
This book is not a substitute for either the Forest Practices Rules or for professional expertise. You must refer to the rule book to know how to comply with the Forest Practices Act and the Forest Practices Rules. If you are not experienced in forestry operations, the professional expertise of a consulting forester can be very helpful, particularly if your activities will include timber harvesting or road construction.

See the Resources section, beginning on page 130, for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

This book provides many helpful suggestions that are beyond Forest Practices Rules that you might want to consider.

This book does not interpret the rules or create additional requirements that you have to abide by in your forest practices activities.





What are forest practices?

Practices related to growing, harvesting, or processing timber, including but not limited to, road construction and maintenance, thinning, salvage, harvesting, reforestation, brush control, and using fertilizers or pesticides. The Washington State Forest Practices Act and its corresponding rules regulate these practices.

What are Forest Practices Rules?

They are rules that protect soils, water, fish, wildlife, and capital improvements (roads, power lines) from impacts related to forest practices on private, county, and state forest land. The Forest Practices Rules were adopted by the Legislature in 1974 and published as Title 222 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

Does the *Forest Practices Illustrated* book cover all of the Forest Practices Rules?

No. This book includes selected Forest Practices Rules that relate to timber harvest, road construction, reforestation and use of pesticides or fertilizer. It is not a substitute for the Forest Practices Act, Rules, or Board Manual. This book is not a guide on how to fill out your Forest Practices Application/Notification (FPA/N), but provides many helpful suggestions that you might want to consider. If you have questions regarding compliance with Forest Practices Rules, refer to the rule book. The *Forest Practices Illustrated* does not interpret the rules or create additional requirements that you have to abide by in your forest practices activities.

Where possible, additional information has been included that landowners stated would be helpful to them. Contact your regional DNR office for a copy of the Forest Practices Rules, Board Manual and Act, or access them on the DNR Internet Forest Practices webpage at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/>.

Activities related to growing, harvesting, or processing timber are regulated through the Forest Practices Act and its corresponding rules.

Why do we have Forest Practices Rules?

In 1974, the Washington State Legislature passed the Forest Practices Act, Chapter 76.09 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The purpose of the Act is to protect public resources while maintaining a viable forest products industry.

The Legislature also required the Forest Practices Board to adopt Forest Practices Rules to carry out the objectives of the Forest Practices Act.

Who makes the Forest Practices Rules?

Rules are developed through a political and technical process. This process involves stakeholders such as state agencies, Tribal governments, landowners, environmental groups, and others. The Forest Practices Board adopts the Forest Practices Rules. This board consists of twelve people representing a variety of interests. See RCW 76.09.030

Who enforces the Forest Practices Rules?

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates forest practices on private and state land.

When do I need to file a Forest Practices Application/Notification (FPA/N)?

Forest practices that may require a FPA/N include: harvesting timber, salvaging standing and down wood, constructing forest roads, installing and replacing stream crossings on forest roads, and applying forest chemicals with an aircraft.

Some counties and cities issue permits for activities that will convert forest land to other uses. These municipalities include Clark, King, Spokane, Mason, Pierce, and Thurston Counties; and the cities of Port Townsend and Bonney Lake.

Who is responsible for filing the FPA/N?

The landowner is responsible, although a landowner representative can file the FPA/N.

Who is responsible for signing the FPA/N?

The landowner, timber owner, and operator must all sign the FPA/N.

Are there forestry activities that do not require a FPA/N?

Yes, but Forest Practices Rules must still be followed so that public resources are protected. Some examples of such practices include:

- ▶ Tree planting
- ▶ Seedling protection devices
- ▶ Seeding grasses and forage
- ▶ Hand slashing competing vegetation
- ▶ Cutting less than 5,000 board feet per year (approximately one log truck load) of timber for personal use (i.e., not for sale) when no resource issues exist.



Forest Practices Rules were created to protect forest soils, public resources, and to ensure that harvested areas are re-forested.



Where do I obtain a FPA/N?

On the DNR internet webpage at: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/> or at the DNR region office which serves the area where your forest land is located. The Forest Practices Application/Notification also has a set of instructions that is beneficial to look through prior to filling out the FPA/N.

How long will it take for my FPA/N to be processed?

DNR has 30 calendar days to approve, approve with conditions, or deny most FPA/Ns. DNR has more than 30 days to review applications that require Environmental Impact Statements.

The 30 day time period begins the day the Department receives a complete FPA/N.

Do I need to include anything with my FPA/N?

The FPA/N instructions detail how to produce a complete application. These instructions can be found at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/>. The forest landowner, timber owner, and operator each must sign the FPA/N.

Is the decision to approve my FPA/N dependent upon anything besides the information in my application?

Circumstances requiring special resource protection, such as unstable soils, threatened or endangered species, archaeological or historic sites, water quality protection and special prescriptions for sensitive areas within a watershed analysis unit may affect the application decision.

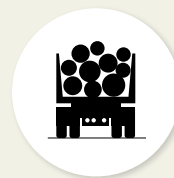
The FPA/N also serves as an application to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit, if necessary.

How long is my FPA/N valid?

The standard is two years; multi-year permits are valid for three to five years. Either may be renewed for an additional two years if the proposal has not changed, there are no outstanding enforcement issues, and the rules and laws affecting the proposal have not changed.

Where do I submit my FPA/N?

Applications are received at the region office and reviewed for completeness. The region office scans complete applications on the DNR Forest Practices Review System (FPARS). Applications are posted on the Internet and are available to interested stakeholders.



If you cut or remove less than **5,000 board feet** of timber for personal use per year during any 12-month period, you are not required to submit a FPA/N.



<http://www.dnr.wa.gov>

Is there a fee for filing a FPA/N?

Fees vary between \$0 and \$500, depending on the activity. The DNR application fee and a separate county recording fee (if applicable) are both due at the time of application. The amounts can be included on the same check made payable to “Department of Natural Resources”. Recording fees are established by the Legislature and are subject to change.

Who reviews my FPA/N?

DNR Forest Practices region staff, the Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Tribal Governments, local governments (cities and counties), and other interested parties.

What is the appeal process for the application?

Appeals must be received by the Forest Practices Appeals Board within 30 days of the approval or denial of the application. For more information on appeals, visit the Environmental Hearings Office web address: <http://www.eho.wa.gov/>.

What is the Timber, Fish and Wildlife Agreement (TFW) and how does it affect my application?

In 1987, several public agencies, environmental organizations, Tribes, and timber landowners forged the TFW agreement as a positive alternative to confrontations between groups and potential lawsuits related to forestry issues. The goal of TFW is to protect public resources while maintaining a viable timber industry. Agencies and organizations participating in the TFW process may review and comment on FPA/Ns.

What is SEPA and how does it affect my FPA/N?

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is the process for public review of your proposed operation. It requires that projects be evaluated for their impacts to the environment. An environmental checklist is required for property that was platted, for conversions, and for operations that may have potentially significant impacts on the environment.

Are there circumstances requiring special resource protection that may affect my FPA/N?

In some cases, the following may affect the approval of your application and the activities that you may conduct:

- ▶ Unstable soils
- ▶ Threatened or endangered species
- ▶ Cultural, archaeological, or historic sites
- ▶ Special prescriptions for sensitive areas within a Watershed Analysis Unit
- ▶ Water quality protection



Forest Practices Rules were created to protect forest soils, public resources, and to ensure that harvested areas are re-forested.



When do I need a Hydraulics Project Approval (HPA) in addition to my FPA/N?

Whenever your FPA/N includes work in or over bankfull width of Type S or F streams. An HPA may also be needed for Type Np or Ns streams within 1/4 mile above Type S or F streams. Typed streams are those with defined channels, ponds, lakes, and wetlands where flowing water is present at some time of the year. The FPA/N serves as the application for a HPA.

What happens if my land is in a DNR Watershed Administrative Unit?

Contact your local DNR region office to verify whether your land is within a completed Watershed Analysis Unit and if prescriptions apply. Prescriptions are alternatives to certain Forest Practices Rules. If landowners do not want to use the prescriptions, they may propose an Alternate Plan.

What if I plan to convert forest land to a non-forestry use?

If your proposal is located in unincorporated areas of Clark, King, Mason, Spokane, Pierce, or Thurston counties, the cities of Bonney Lake and Port Townsend, you do not need a FPA/N from DNR. Instead, you will need a permit from your county/city planning department. In other areas, you need a FPA/N and a SEPA checklist.

If there is a violation, who is responsible?

The landowner, timber owner, and/or the operator.

Are there other regulations and requirements which apply to forestry operations?

Yes. See the Resources section on page 130. Also refer to chapter 222-50 WAC in the Forest Practices Rules.

Where can I get information and assistance?

Your local DNR region office staff is available to answer questions about the Forest Practices Application/Notification (FPA/N) or about the Forest Practices Rules. See the Resources section on page 130.

DNR's Application/Notification Fees

(RCW 76.09.065)

\$0.00 Does not include timber harvest, but other activities that require an application:

- ▶ Road construction
- ▶ Applying chemicals
- ▶ Opening or expanding a rock pit

\$500.00 Timber harvest on forest land in the following circumstances:

- ▶ Conversion to a use incompatible with forestry
- ▶ On forest land* that is located inside the urban growth boundary (includes city limits)

***EXCEPT** the fee is **\$50.00** if the landowner can prove they will not convert by providing one of the following with the forest practices application:

- ▶ Letter signed by the landowner that states the landowner will not convert to a non-commercial forestry use for 10 years AND a DNR approved written forest management plan.
- ▶ Conversion Option Harvest Plan approved and signed by the county or city

\$50.00 For all other applications that involve timber harvest.

COUNTY FEES FOR RECORDING THE MORATORIUM (CHAPTER 36.18 RCW)

Most counties charge a fee for filing the moratorium form and a charge for each additional page. These fees will be added to your FPA/N fee. The moratorium form and recording fees are required for most FPA/Ns.

Watersheds and Forest Practices

This illustration represents forest practice activities in Eastern and Western Washington. If you look carefully, you can see the potential effects of these activities on the landscape. Many forest practice activities can affect the quality and quantity of water flowing through a watershed. A watershed is the area that catches snow and rain, which then drains or seeps into wetlands, lakes, streams, and groundwater.

Forest practices regulations are designed to protect natural resources. While these rules may seem complicated to the individual, when looked at in the bigger picture, it is clear the rules help provide greater public benefits.

To protect healthy watersheds, forest activities should be conducted in ways that maintain natural processes.

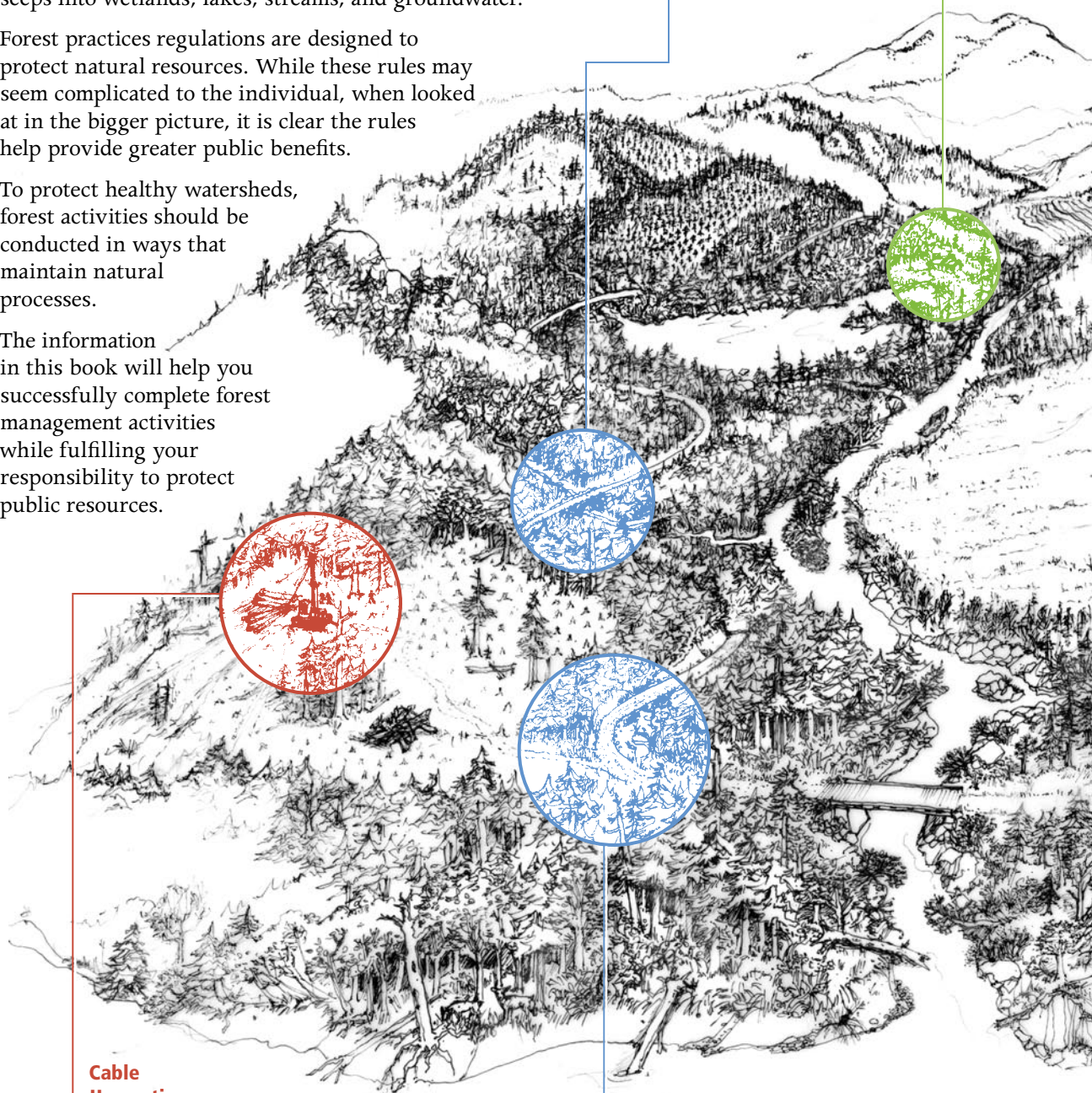
The information in this book will help you successfully complete forest management activities while fulfilling your responsibility to protect public resources.

Cultural Resources
See page 20

Stream Crossings
See page 40

Cable Harvesting Systems
See page 102

Forest Roads
See page 28





In the context of
the bigger picture it is clear
that the rules help provide greater
public benefits.

**Wetland
Management
Zone (WMZ)**

See page 85

**Riparian
Management
Zone (RMZ)**

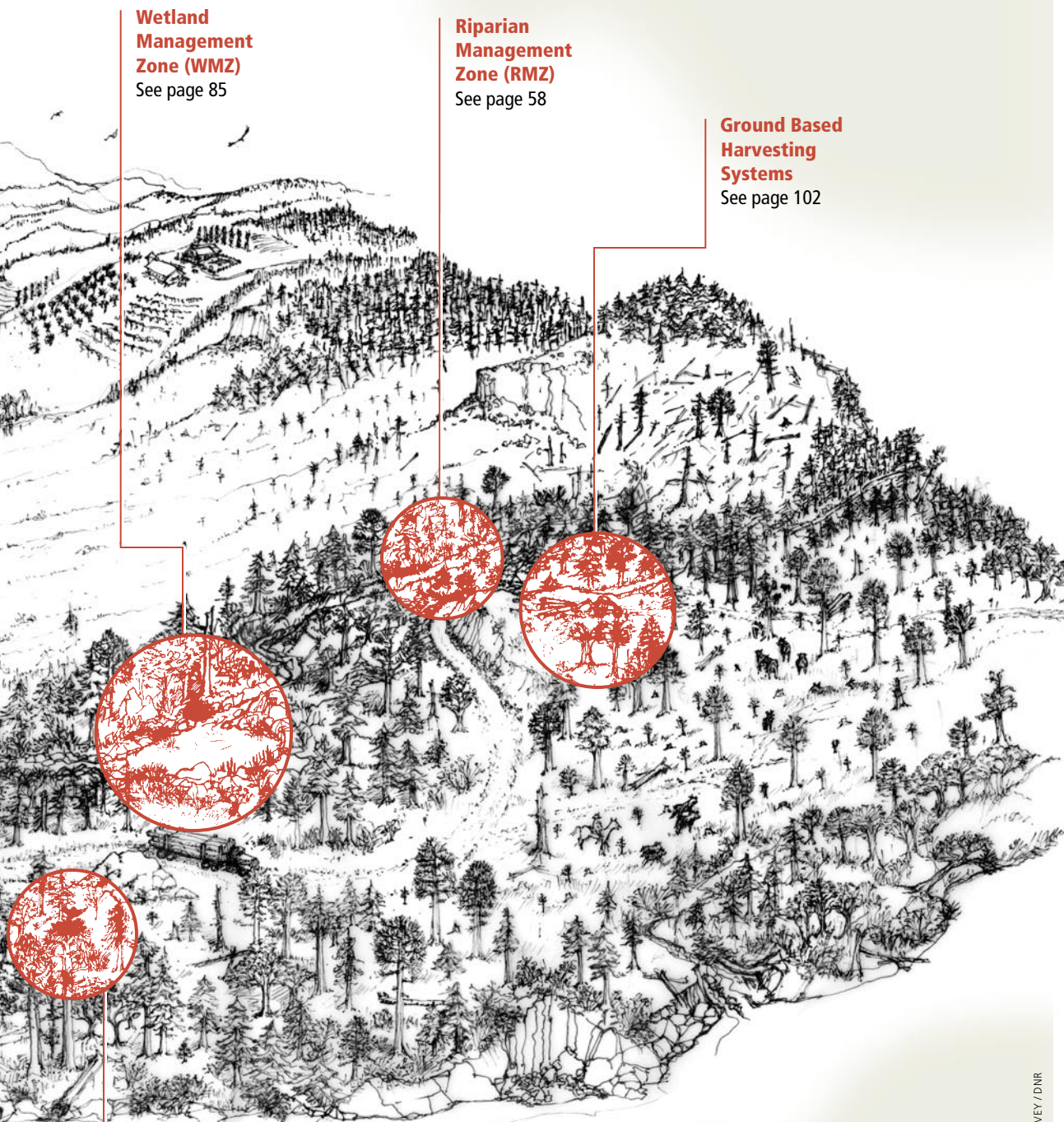
See page 58

**Ground Based
Harvesting
Systems**

See page 102

**Threatened and
Endangered
Species**

See page 100



Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), on behalf of the State of Washington, developed the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in response to the federal listing of certain threatened and endangered fish species. The Forest Practices HCP describes how those listed fish species would be protected. The purpose of the Forest Practices HCP is to ensure that landowners who conduct forest practices activities in compliance with the Forest Practices Act and Rules will also be following the requirements of the Federal Endangered Species Act for those species. The approved Forest Practices HCP demonstrates that state and federal laws can work together to achieve public resource protection while allowing landowners to manage their forest land effectively.

On June 5, 2006, the NOAA Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued the State of Washington incidental take permits for listed aquatic species, based on the protective measures described in the Forest Practices HCP. The permits are in effect for fifty years. Landowners will now be able to plan and operate in a more stable and predictable regulatory environment. This may provide some incentive for landowners to keep forest land in forestry instead of converting it to other uses that might be less desirable for salmon recovery. Having the approved Forest Practices HCP and the incidental take permits will help protect the state and landowners, operating in compliance with the Forest Practices Rules, from Endangered Species Act lawsuits.

In addition, the State of Washington will be able to compete for funding for programs that provide landowners with technical assistance incentives, such as the Forestry Riparian Easement Program and Family Forest Fish Passage Program. Having the approved Forest Practices HCP and broad support from stakeholders helps the state obtain additional funding to support these programs, as well as DNR's Adaptive Management Research and Monitoring program.

DNR also is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology to ensure that the Forest Practices Rules meet the goals and standards of the state Water Pollution Control Act and the Federal Clean Water Act.

The plan was developed in response to the federal listing of certain threatened and endangered fish species. It describes how those listed fish species would be protected.





The approved Forest Practices HCP demonstrates that state and federal laws can work together to achieve public resource protection while allowing landowners to manage their forest land effectively.